

ELIZABETH PITCAIRN FITS WITTNER FINETUNE PEGS TO RED MENDELSSOHN STRADIVARIUS

Celebrated American violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn has earned a stunning reputation as one of America's most beloved soloists. Ms. Pitcairn made her New York debut at Lincoln Centre's Alice Tully Hall in 2000 with the New York String Orchestra and she appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music. She has recently been named the Artistic Director of the Luzerne Chamber Music Festival, and she is a member of the distinguished faculty at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, where she currently resides.

At the age of 16, Ms Pitcairn was quietly gifted the Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius of 1720 by her grandfather; an instrument that had previously fetched a record price at London's Christie's auction house in 1990 and had inspired the Oscar Award-Winning film, *The Red Violin*.



But even on the finest instruments, artists such as Ms. Pitcairn have historically struggled with pegs that slip or stick during crucial moments in performance. Pegs that are difficult to turn can also exacerbate the wrist and arm strain that eventually plagues many professional musicians. Orchestral musicians are under pressure to get their instruments in tune for both concerts and rehearsals in the short amount of time allotted. Children and their parents especially have great difficulty with ill-fitting pegs on student instruments that create endless frustration for both families and luthiers alike. As director of the renowned Luzerne Music Center (NY) summer program, Ms. Pitcairn sees firsthand how extreme humidity and dryness adversely affect her students' pegs.

With these concerns in mind, Ms. Pitcairn eventually spoke to the master luthier who cares for her instrument. He recommended the Wittner Finetune-Pegs. Here is what she had to say about her experience.

"Dear Mr. Wittner,

I am delighted by the opportunity to express to you and your company how incredibly pleased I am with your product.

Robert Cauer of Los Angeles, a longtime caretaker of my instrument, has installed them so far on my three violins - the 1720 Stradivarius, the Pressenda and the violin which I practice on during vacations in extreme humidity in places like the Caribbean and dry climates such as the mountains of Colorado.

This has solved my problems with pegs sticking and slipping which plagued me!

I also feel that your pegs are saving my arm from strain and the onset of physical problems caused by wrestling with sticking or slipping pegs. It is so delightfully easy to tune my violin onstage before performing a major concerto with orchestra.

I am a huge fan and am spreading the word about this wonderful product wherever I go just because I like them so much.

Thank you for making them.

*Very best,
Elizabeth"*

www.elizabethpitcairn.com

Wittner Finetune pegs are available from Barnes & Mullins Ltd for Violin and Cello in full size and fractional sizes too.



Photo by Joy Strotz

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